

Claims

1. A method for distinguishing t(11q23)/MLL-positive leukemias from
5 t(11q23)/MLL negative leukemias in a sample, the method comprising
determining the expression level of markers selected from the markers
identifiable by their Affymetrix Identification Numbers (affy id) as defined
in Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and/or 7 ,

wherein

10 a lower expression of at least one polynucleotide defined by any of the
numbers 1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26,
27, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49,
and/or 50 of Table 1, and/or

15 a higher expression of at least one polynucleotide defined by any of the
numbers 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 14, 15, 18, 28, 31, 36, 39, and/or 43 of Table 1,
is indicative for the presence of denovo_AML when denovo_AML is
distinguished from therapy-related AML,

and/or wherein

20 a lower expression of at least one polynucleotide defined by any of the
numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26,
27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49,
and/or 50 of Table 2, and/or

25 a higher expression of at least one polynucleotide defined by any of the
numbers 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 24, 28, 33, 41, and/or 42, of Table 2
is indicative for the presence of ALL with t(11q23) when ALL with
t(11q23) is distinguished from AML with t(11q23),

and/or wherein

30 a lower expression of at least one polynucleotide defined by any of the
numbers 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 25,
26, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, 48, 49,
and/or 50 of Table 3 and/or

a higher expression of at least one polynucleotide defined by any of the
numbers 3, 6, 15, 19, 23, 24, 30, 31, 39, 44, and/or 47, of Table 3

is indicative for the presence of ALL with MLL/t(11;19) when ALL with MLL/t(11;19) is distinguished from AML with MLL/t(11;19)

and/or wherein

5 a lower expression of at least one polynucleotide defined by any of the numbers 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 47, and/or 50 of Table 4, and/or

10 a higher expression of at least one polynucleotide defined by any of the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 14, 19, 26, 32, 34, 35, 39, 43, 46, 48, and/or 49 of Table 4,

is indicative for the presence of ALL with MLL/t(11;19) when ALL with MLL/t(11;19) is distinguished from ALL with MLL/t(4;11),

and/or wherein

15 a lower expression of at least one polynucleotide defined by any of the numbers 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, and/or 50 of Table 5, and/or

20 a higher expression of at least one polynucleotide defined by any of the numbers 2, 10, 15, 16, 20, 22, 32, 33, and/or 42 of Table 5

is indicative for the presence of ALL with MLL/t(9;11) when ALL with MLL/t(9;11) is distinguished from AML with t(11q23),

and/or wherein

25 a lower expression of at least one polynucleotide defined by any of the numbers 1, 4, 8, 13, 14, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31, 36, 37, 38, 39, 44, 48, and/or 49, of Table 6.1, and or

a higher expression of at least one polynucleotide defined by any of the numbers 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27, 28, 32, 33, 34, 35, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, and/or 50 of Table 6.1,

30 is indicative for the presence of AML with MLL/t(6;11) when AML with MLL/t(6;11) is distinguished from all other AML subtypes,

and/or wherein

a lower expression of at least one polynucleotide defined by any of the numbers 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 32, 33, 34, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 48, 49, and/or 50 of Table 6.2, and/or

5 a higher expression a polynucleotide defined by any of the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 11, 16, 18, 21, 28, 30, 31, 35, 36, and/or 47, of Table 6.2

is indicative for the presence of AML with MLL/t(9;11) when AML with MLL/t(9;11) is distinguished from all other AML subtypes,

and/or wherein

10 a lower expression of at least one polynucleotide defined by any of the numbers 1, 5, 6, 9, 10, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 34, 36, 37, 39, 41, 42, 44, 46, 47, and/or 49, of Table 6.3, and/or

a higher expression of at least one polynucleotide defined by any of the numbers 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 24, 25, 29, 30, 33, 35, 38, 40, 43, 45, 48, and/or 50 of Table 6.3

15 is indicative for the presence of AML with MLL/t(11;19) when AML with MLL/t(11;19) is distinguished from all other AML subtypes,

and/or wherein

20 a lower expression of at least one polynucleotide defined by any of the numbers 2, 7, 8, 16, 17, 18, 22, 33, 34, 35, 36, 48, 49, and/or 50 of Table 7.1, and/or

a higher expression of at least one polynucleotide defined by any of the numbers 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, and/or 47, of Table 7.1,

25 is indicative for the presence of AML with MLL/t(6;11) when AML with MLL/t(6;11) is distinguished from AML with MLL/t(9;11),

and/or wherein

30 a lower expression of at least one polynucleotide defined by any of the numbers 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 19, 20, 23, 27, 33, 36, 39, 41, 45, 47, 48, 49, of Table 7.2, and/or

a higher expression of at least one polynucleotide defined by any of the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37, 38, 40, 42, 43, 44, 46, and/or 50 of Table 7.2,

5 is indicative for the presence of AML with MLL/t(6;11) when AML with MLL/t(6;11) is distinguished from AML with MLL/t(11;19),

and/or wherein

a lower expression of at least one polynucleotide defined by any of the numbers 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 30, 31, 32, 36, 39, 44, 45, 48, 49, of Table 7.3, and/or

10 a higher expression of at least one polynucleotide defined by any of the numbers 1, 7, 8, 15, 18, 20, 27, 29, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 46, 47, and/or 50 of Table 7.3

is indicative for the presence of AML with MLL/t(9;11) when AML with MLL/t(9;11) is distinguished from AML with MLL/t(11;19)..

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2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the polynucleotide is labelled.

3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the label is a luminescent, preferably a fluorescent label, an enzymatic or a radioactive label.

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4. The method according at least one of the claims 1-3, wherein the expression level of at least two, preferably of at least ten, more preferably of at least 25, most preferably of 50 of the markers of at least one of the Tables 1-7 is determined.

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5. The method according to at least one of the claims 1-4, wherein the expression level of markers expressed lower in a first subtype than in at least one second subtype, which differs from the first subtype, is at least 5 %, 10% or 20%, more preferred at least 50% or may even be 75% or 100%, i.e. 2-fold higher, preferably at least 10-fold, more preferably at least 50-fold, and most preferably at least 100-fold lower in the first subtype.

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6. The method according to at least one of the claims 1-4, wherein the expression level of markers expressed higher in a first subtype than in at least one second subtype, which differs from the first subtype, is at least 5 %, 10% or 20%, more preferred at least 50% or may even be 75% or 100%, i.e. 2-fold higher, preferably at least 10-fold, more preferably at least 50-fold, and most preferably at least 100-fold higher in the first subtype.
7. The method according to at least one of the claims 1-6, wherein the sample is from an individual having AML or ALL.
8. The method according to at least one of the claims 1-7, wherein at least one polynucleotide is in the form of a transcribed polynucleotide, or a portion thereof.
9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the transcribed polynucleotide is a mRNA or a cDNA.
10. The method according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the determining of the expression level comprises hybridizing the transcribed polynucleotide to a complementary polynucleotide, or a portion thereof, under stringent hybridization conditions.
11. The method according to at least one of the claims 1-7, wherein at least one polynucleotide is in the form of a polypeptide, or a portion thereof.
12. The method according to claim 8, 9 or 12, wherein the determining of the expression level comprises contacting the polynucleotide or the polypeptide with a compound specifically binding to the polynucleotide or the polypeptide.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the compound is an antibody, or a fragment thereof.
- 5 14. The method according to at least one of the claims 1-13, wherein the method is carried out on an array.
15. The method according to at least one of the claims 1-14, wherein the method is carried out in a robotics system.
- 10 16. The method according to at least one of the claims 1-15, wherein the method is carried out using microfluidics.
- 15 17. Use of at least one marker as defined in at least one of the claims 1-3 for the manufacturing of a diagnostic for distinguishing t(11q23)/MLL-positive leukemias from t(11q23)/MLL negative leukemias.
18. The use according to claim 17 for distinguishing t(11q23)/MLL-positive leukemias from t(11q23)/MLL negative leukemias in an individual having AML or ALL.
- 20 19. A diagnostic kit containing at least one marker as defined in at least one of the claims 1-3 for distinguishing t(11q23)/MLL-positive leukemias from t(11q23)/MLL negative leukemias, in combination with suitable auxiliaries.
- 25 20. The diagnostic kit according to claim 19, wherein the kit contains a reference for t(11q23)/MLL-positive leukemias and/or t(11q23)/MLL negative leukemias.

21. The diagnostic kit according to claim 20, wherein the reference is a sample or a data bank.
22. An apparatus for distinguishing t(11q23)/MLL-positive leukemias from t(11q23)/MLL negative leukemias in a sample containing a reference data bank.
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23. The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the reference data bank is obtainable by comprising
10 (a) compiling a gene expression profile of a patient sample by determining the expression level of at least one marker selected from the markers identifiable by their Affymetrix Identification Numbers (affy id) as defined in Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and/or 7, and
(b) classifying the gene expression profile by means of a machine learning algorithm.
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24. The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the machine learning algorithm is selected from the group consisting of Weighted Voting, K-Nearest Neighbors, Decision Tree Induction, Support Vector Machines, and Feed-Forward Neural Networks, preferably Support Vector Machines.
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25. The apparatus according to at least one of the claims 22-24, wherein the apparatus contains a control panel and/or a monitor.
26. A reference data bank for distinguishing t(11q23)/MLL-positive leukemias from t(11q23)/MLL negative leukemias obtainable by comprising
25 (a) compiling a gene expression profile of a patient sample by determining the expression level of at least one marker selected from the markers identifiable by their Affymetrix Identification Numbers (affy id) as defined in Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and/or 7, and
(b) classifying the gene expression profile by means of a machine learning algorithm.
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27. The reference data bank according to claim 26, wherein the reference data bank is backed up and/or contained in a computational memory chip.